Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division Vol. 72, No. 06 June 2021

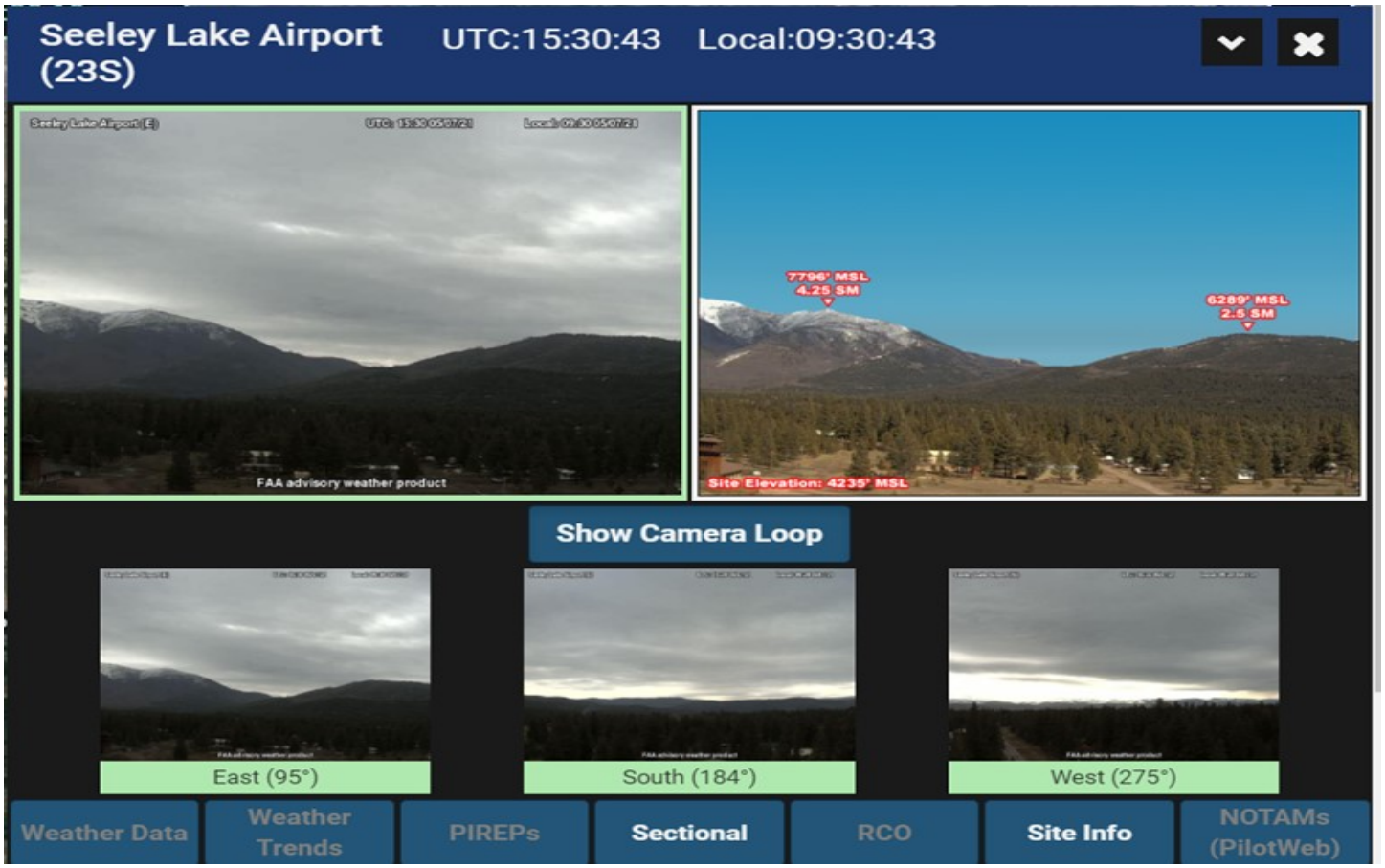
Seeley Lake Aviation Weather Camera is Operational

Montana's second aviation weather camera system is now operational at the Seeley Lake Airport. Three camera images, live at https://weathercams.faa.gov/, provide views of the sky to the east at 95 degrees, south at 184 degrees, and west at 275 degrees. These views show sky conditions to assist in preflight planning for VFR and IFR flights in the southern Seeley/Swan valley.

Frequency is an important factor for these cameras, and images are uploaded to the FAA Weather website every ten minutes during daylight hours. Playback features allow playback up to six hours allowing users to see what the weather did earlier.

More camera installations are scheduled throughout the year. Please check the website regularly for the latest additions.

Additional site hosts are needed to expand the webcam network. Airports and other parties interested in purchasing camera equipment and hosting a camera site will need to have a location with clear views of the surrounding sky. Power and a Static IP address internet connection is required. If internet is unavailable, a cell modem can be used. MDT Aeronautics will assist with installing the equipment at desired locations and the FAA will support and host the website. Contact Derrick Olheiser at the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-9592, or dolheiser@mt.gov for more information.



Congratulations, Alan!

Alan Kasemodel recently retired as an air traffic controller for the FAA with 35 years and 11 months of service. His last role was serving as an air traffic staff support specialist at Billings tower. Alan is also an accomplished flight instructor, aircraft owner, and A&P mechanic. Thank you for keeping us safe in the big sky, and we look forward to seeing you around many fly-in breakfasts this summer. Congratulations!

U. S. Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration
Certificate of Service
Presented to
Alan D. Kasemodel
On the occasion of your retirement after 35 years and 11 months
of service to the people of the United States of America
April 30, 2021
Date
Administrator

Photo courtesy of Alan Kasemodel

Photo courtesy of Capt. Newlan Parker, DPE

CAP Needs Chaplains in MT

The Montana Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is recruiting qualified individuals to serve as Chaplains, or as Character Development Instructors (who have fewer qualifications), for local squadrons in Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell, Lewistown, and Missoula. Interested persons should contact Rocky Mountain Region CAP Chaplain, David Knight, at dknight@hc.cap.gov. CAP Chaplains may represent the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, or Buddhist faiths, and must be endorsed by a religious organization recognized by the Armed Forces Chaplains Board to receive an appointment as a full CAP Chaplain. CDIs must be endorsed by a local community leader who is willing to provide a good character reference. Originally established on December 1, 1941, as part of the Office of Civil Defense, Civil Air Patrol (CAP) became the officially recognized civilian-volunteer Auxiliary of the United States Air Force (USAF). The CAP Chaplain Corps was officially established on April 4, 1950, to provide ministerial services to CAP volunteers and to members of the United States Armed Forces. In that noble tradition, CAP's volunteer Chaplains continue to provide ministerial services to CAP volunteers at about 1,700 local community-based CAP squadrons nationwide, participate in CAP's volunteer aviation emergency services and the cadet program, and (need verb here) to members of the United States Armed Forces. Currently, the Montana Wing of the CAP has no chaplains.

Tim Conway, Administrator

Montana and the Sky
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Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection Program

The General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) is encouraging eligible U.S. aviation manufacturers and maintenance businesses whose workforces were impacted by the pandemic to start preparing to participate in the new Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection (AMJP) program.

Photo credit: US Dept. of Transportation

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) $3 billion AMJP program will provide grants to retain, recall, or rehire the workforces of eligible aviation manufacturers and maintenance businesses, including their suppliers, during the pandemic. This temporary program requires a cost-sharing of 50% by employers and 50% by the federal government and can only be used to support the compensation of these workers.

DOT officials have indicated the department will soon be accepting applications for businesses to participate in the AMJP program. It has created a website for applicants to monitor the status of the program. Officials are also encouraging eligible businesses to apply now for a Data Universal Number Systems (DUNS) and to register online with the System of Award Management, if they have not already done so.

The AMJP program was established as part of the American Rescue Plan Act, which passed through Congress and was signed into law in March 2021. For more information, visit https://www.transportation.gov/AMJP.

Did You Know?

Did you know many airports with commercial airline service have certified Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) equipment and personnel available during commercial air service operations? The Yellowstone Airport, owned by the State of Montana, is one of these airports. Firefighters and equipment are on standby 15 minutes before and after landing, and 15 minutes after departure of airline flights. The Yellowstone Airport ARFF crew will also respond to other non-commercial incidents. ARFF firefighters attend an initial 40-hour certification course and must recertify annually with eight hours of training. Yellowstone Airport has two firetrucks and three firefighters as part of its available ARFF support.

Photos courtesy of Aeronautics staff

Montana Gets Three New IAs!

Three A&Ps received their Inspection Authorizations on April 29, 2021.

Jeff Doyle of Edwards Jet Center in Billings, Tracy O'Conner of Dallas Aero in Poplar, and Darin Meggers of Baker Air Service in Baker are Montana's latest airframe and powerplant mechanics to receive inspector authorization.

It is great to have new young blood in Montana aviation. As we know, there is a shortage of aircraft mechanics; it is reported that North America will need nearly 200,000 new mechanics by 2038. It is vital to our community that we cultivate and support the next generation of aviation maintenance technicians. Congratulations, gentleman!

Pictured from left to right: Jeff Doyle, Tracy O'Conner, Darin Meggers

Yellowstone Airport Open for the 2021 Season!

After a pleasant winter, the crew at Yellowstone Airport has been hard at work readying the facilities in preparation for its busiest season yet. The terminal lobby has been cleaned and its floors waxed, ready for an anticipated 150% increase in airline passenger flights with three new flights to Denver through United Airlines in addition to the two daily Delta flights to Salt Lake City. The addition of United Airlines also brings a new ticket counter to the terminal building.

The airport opened May 1 to all general aviation traffic and saw its first commercial flights on May 6. We hope to see you visit the airport in West Yellowstone, Montana, in our 2021 season!

Yellowstone Airport terminal. Photo courtesy of Yellowstone Airport staff.

Free Course!

Aircraft Marshalling

Pilots can now take a free video course to learn signals used by marshallers on a ramp. Aircraft marshalling is rarely covered during pilot education leaving many pilots scratching their heads when presented with marshalling signals. You will learn and understand ground signals used on busy ramps, at fly-ins, and aviation events. Additionally, you will learn what signals to give back to the marshaller when necessary.

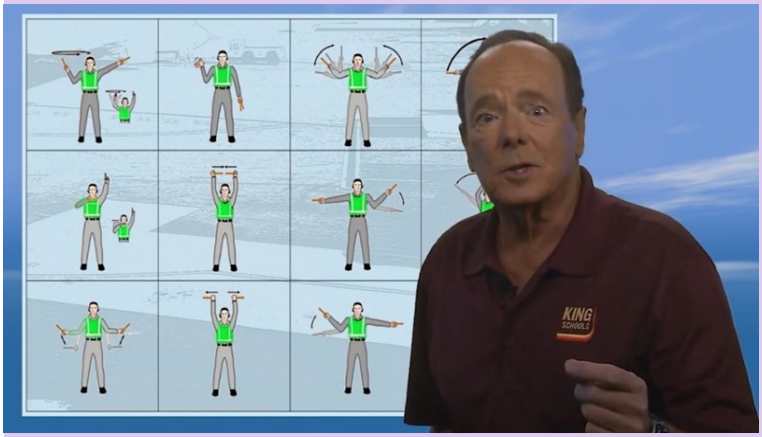

Photo credit: King Schools

Familiar instructors, John and Martha King, produced this course citing many general aviation pilots have found themselves in front of a marshaller realizing they were either unfamiliar with or rusty on marshalling signals. The Kings developed this course to help fill that gap in aviation training.

The course is only 20 minutes and is available free on the King Schools website, https://www.kingschools.com/free-pilot-training-courses/understanding-aircraft-marshalling.

Aviation Career Exploration Academy

Provided by the Montana Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division, the Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy is a resident camp offered each summer for high school students to learn about careers in aviation and explore flight. This camp helps students from across the state learn what is available within the industry. This year, ACE Camp will be held June 25-26, 2021, in Helena and at the Montana Learning Center. Tuition of $120 includes lodging, discovery flight, meals, snacks, supplies, drinks, and ground transportation.

On the first day, students will learn survival skills, signaling, and fire and shelter construction during a campout in the mountains. Later in the afternoon, students will have an opportunity to signal a search plane to locate them in the mountains using their newly learned rescue methods.

2019 ACE Camp—Canyon Ferry Fly-In Photo credit: Aeronautics Staff

On the second day, the theme focuses on exposing students to as many areas and careers in aviation as possible. Students will tour local aviation facilities and hear from industry experts. Students will receive introductory flights in Division aircraft and tour the Montana Air National Guard helicopter base, Department of Natural Resources helicopter wildland fire suppression unit, a fixed based operator, charter operator, an air ambulance company, a crop duster business, the Helena Air Traffic Control tower, the Helena Airport, a local fire department crash rescue facility, an aircraft restoration hobbyist, an aircraft mechanic school, the Boeing manufacturing plant, and tour the cockpits of two retired airliners. Additionally, students have the opportunity to hear from an airline pilot, airport engineer, aircraft mechanic, flight nurse and paramedic, various local aviation business owners, and other aviation professionals.

Students attend a fly-in at the Canyon Ferry airstrip and have a picnic while socializing with volunteer aircraft owners and pilots who bring their aircraft to support the event.

During each evening, students will learn about space and astronomy and have access to the most powerful space observatory telescope in Montana located on the north end of Canyon Ferry Reservoir. They will fly drones, learn about the forces and principles of flight, build gliders for a flying contest, and fish, swim, and build relationships around the campfire after long days of aviation activities.

Scholarships may be available for students to pay their tuition. In order for a student to receive a scholarship from the donation fund, students must submit an essay explaining their interest in aviation and financial need for the award. Applicants will be selected by the Aeronautics Division prior to ACE Camp.

In previous years, the majority of students were sponsored by generous individuals and businesses in Montana. Thank you! For 2021, we have 15 slots available. Direct donations are accepted, and sponsors are welcome to attend and participate in ACE Camp. Volunteers are always welcome!

You can impact a student's future with your life-changing donation of $120 to the scholarship fund and send a student to ACE! Some of Montana's youth live in areas without access to aviation exposure. For many, this will be their first time flying or even being around someone in aviation.

ACE Camp is open to high school students and to those who just graduated. An online registration form is available at https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml later in April.

Contact Aeronautics at (406) 444-2506 or email mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov to set up your sponsorship or register your student!

**This camp will be subject to change, cancelation or modification per latest COVID-19 guidance.*

Students Work to Improve Safety at Scobey Border Strip

On Friday, April 30, 12 high school seniors from the town of Scobey joined Karen Speeg and Derrick Olheiser from Aeronautics to fill gopher holes at the Scobey Border Station airstrip (8U3). Everyone showed up with shovels and buckets and toughed out high winds and heat to help make light work of an arduous task. Each class at the Scobey School participated in an annual Earth Day project around town that day to promote pride and instill good volunteer habits in their community. This is the first year they have helped with filling gopher holes at the airport, and we appreciate their help with this project immensely.

We would also like to thank the Daniels County Weed District who worked to mitigate the gophers prior to our arrival, and to the local MDT section house for delivering fill dirt to the airport. With the combined efforts of the students, Daniels County, and MDT, this airport is now much improved for the general aviation community to utilize for clearing customs at the border. For more information about transitioning to or from Canada and COVID crossing restrictions, please contact U.S. Customs at 406-783-5375 or Canadian Customs at 306-267-2177.

Top two photos courtesy of Connie Wittak. Bottom photo courtesy of Daniels County Leadger.

New Chart Symbol-Space Launch Areas

The FAA is marking more space launch activity areas on navigation charts. The new symbol looks like a rocket ship and is printed in magenta. Adding space launch activity areas to the navigation charts used by general aviation pilots who fly visually responds to the recent and expected continued growth of commercial space operations.

All 12 FAA-licensed spaceports and other federal and private launch and reentry sites are represented on the charts by a rocket symbol. These areas are in Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia. Pilots can download the free charts and reference the FAA Aeronautical Chart User's Guide for more information at https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/flight_info/aeronav/digital_products/aero_guide/.

In addition, the FAA encourages pilots to check NOTAMs for any Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) issued to divert air traffic from where space operations are scheduled. Montana is no exception to rocket launch activity. You will occasionally see a TFR for these kinds of launches even though they do not occur from a published space port.

In 2020, the FAA licensed 41 commercial space launches and reentries—the most in the agency's history. For 2021, that number is already on track to exceed 50.

Pilots should also be aware of NASA, military, and other government launches the FAA does not license. However, these launches are made known by TFRs and NOTAMs.

Aeronautics Loan & Grant Application Reminder

As a reminder to airport loan and grant applicants, the Loan and Grant online portal (http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml) will accept FY 2023 applications starting July 1, 2021, through November 15, 2021. If you cannot enter the website, you may have a previous award that needs a closeout form or an annual status report filed.

Additionally, make sure projects are broken down as required. As an example, asphalt projects should be broken down by runway, apron, and taxiway, not as one project lumped together. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the Aeronautics Division at (406)444-2506.

Calendar of Events

June 10, 2021 — Aeronautics Board Meeting. For more information, please contact MDT Aeronautics at (406) 444-2506.

June 12, 2021 — Choteau Fly-In Breakfast. Hosted by the Teton County Airport Commission. Enjoy a free breakfast, avgas discount, Young Eagles flights, skydiving, flour bombing, and spot landing contests. Donations accepted. Miss Montana will be there along with a F-51d Mustang, Long-EZ, and a Travel Air 6000! For more information, contact Scott Gasvoda at (406) 590-2836.

June 12, 2021 — Butte Wings & Wheels Fly-In. Fly-in or drive to Bert Mooney Airport in beautiful Butte for aircraft display & car/truck show. Hosted by the Butte Composite Squadron-Civil Air Patrol. Enjoy a free breakfast 7:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m., Avgas discount at Butte Aviation, and fun for young and old alike. Donations accepted. For more information, contact Walt McIntosh at (406) 670-1846

June 19, 2021 — Meadow Creek Work Session. For more information, contact Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506.

June 19, 2021 — Helena EAA Chapter 344 Burger Burn. Free hamburgers, hot dogs, and complimentary soft drinks while enjoying the friendly camaraderie at Morrison Park located just east of the Helena College airport campus off Airport Road. For fly-ins, parking is available in the southwest corner of the general aviation ramp, in the vicinity of Exec. Air's hangars. For further information, contact Committee Chair Woody Hopler (406) 422-3122.

June 19, 2021 — Twin Bridges Fly-In and Car Show. Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. and there will be a free BBQ lunch at noon. Young Eagle Rides, static displays, games for pilots, cash prizes for car show and static display winners, and ping pong ball drop with prizes for kids 0-12. For more information, contact Kendra Horn at kendra@rubyvalleyaviation.com.

June 19, 2021 — Roundup Fly-In Pancake Breakfast. 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Adults $7.00, Children $3.00. Public invited. For more information, contact Ron MacAdon (406) 323-2139.

June 25-27, 2021 — ACE Academy. See Page 5 for more information

June 25-27, 2021 — Missouri Breaks Fly-In Winfred (9S7). Watch for updates at *https://www.supercub.org/*

June 26, 2021 — MPA Central Hanger Breakfast, Lewistown. Fly-In breakfast 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., MANG C130 static display, and C130 fly over, “Collection of Cubs,” and young eagle flights. Bring your own tie downs. Point of contact: Brandon Morris (406) 350-2701.

June 26, 2021 — Canyon Ferry Fly-In. Support of ACE Academy, see Page 5 for more information.

July 16-18, 2021 — Straight Tail 182 Fly-In Smiley Creek, ID. A Fly-In of straight tail Cessna 182 aircraft at the Smiley Creek Airport, Idaho. Recommended you contact the organizer at *phil4id@gmail.com*.

July 17, 2021 — Schafer Meadows Work Session. For more information, contact Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506.

July 23-25, 2021 — Big Sky International Balloon Festival, Billings. Free family event where hot air balloons gather for morning flights and evening glows. For more info, email bigskyballoon@gmail.com.

July 24, 2021 — Lincoln Airport Community Open House with Fly-In BBQ Potluck. Burgers and all the fixings will be provided from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy the aircraft and emergency vehicles on display. For more information, contact Jerome Cain at (406) 461-5631 or email *sgr@linctel.net*.

July 26 - August 2, 2021 — B-17 Bomber *Sentimental Journey*. Static tours and rides will be available for a fee in Belgrade at Yellowstone Jet Center. For more information visit *https://www.azcaf.org/location/bozeman-mt-tour-stop/*.

August 6-7, 2021 — 44th Annual MAAA Three Forks Fly-In. Fly or drive to Three Forks on Friday and spend a relaxing day catching up with friends. Dinner for MAAA members and their guests will be served at 6:00 p.m. The flour bombing, spot landing events, and ping pong ball drop will take place on Saturday afternoon, as well as airplane judging. The awards meeting at 5:00 p.m. will be followed by dinner. For more information, contact Pat Green at (406) 539-1880.

August 15, 2021 — Hysham Fly-In/Drive-In. Breakfast served 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. by the Hysham Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact Bob Miller (406) 342-5252

September 11, 2021 — Columbus Fly-In Pancake Breakfast. Breakfast served 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Come participate in the flour bombing competition. For more information, contact Hardin Graham (406) 780-0034.

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone 406-444-5416 or Montana Relay Service at 711.

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Vision Zero: A Goal for Everyone

VISION ZERO
zero deaths · zero serious injuries
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

In 2020, there were 209 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 209 parents, children, grandparents, friends, siblings, spouses, and other loved ones had lives that were cut short. It also means countless tears and shattered lives for those left with the aftermath of unsafe driving behaviors. Which loved one are you prepared to lose? If your answer is none, then Vision Zero is also YOUR goal.

It will take every one of us to work towards the day that Vision Zero is met, and the fatality total reads "ZERO." Two of the highest contributing factors to traffic fatalities in 2019 were alcohol and no seat belt.

These are behaviors that can be changed! Start by always wearing your seatbelt and planning for sober transportation. Remind your loved ones and those around you to do the same.

-Director Malcolm Long, MDT

Visit *www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero* for more information.

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